TOKYOPOP®

VAMPIRE GAME

Volume 1

by

JUDAL

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VAMPIRE GAME

This is the tale of the Vampire King Duzell and his quest for revenge against the good King Phelios, a valiant warrior who slayed the vampire a century ago. Now Duzell returns, reincarnated as a feline foe to deliver woe to... well, that's the problem. Who is the reincarnation of King Phelios?

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Kingdom of St. Pheliosta
FOLLOWING THE WAR OF LOST SOULS...
...OF THE VAMPIRE KING DUZELL...
...FELL TO THE SWORD OF SIDIA, THE HOLY WEAPON OF YOUR GREAT-GRANDFATHER AND OUR KING, ST. PHELIOS.
...THE UNDEAD INVADERS, THE UNHOLY MINIONS...
UH-HUH.

LET'S TALK ABOUT REVENGE...
...WILL GIVE ME THE BODY I NEED.
GREETINGS, BEAST. I HAVE A PARTNERSHIP TO PROPOSE.
吸血遊戯
Act.1

ST. PHELIOS WAS MORTALLY WOUNDED BY THE VAMPIRE'S MAGIC...
...BUT--
THAT'S CORRECT, CAPTAIN.
THE VAMPIRE KING PLACED A CURSE ON MY GREAT-GRANDFATHER.
BUT!

WHAT? HUH?
OH RIGHT, LIKE...
"UH-HUH?"
ARE YOU EVEN PAYING ATTENTION, LADY ISHTAR?
YOUR HIGHNESS?
...YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY TOLD ME THIS A ZILLION TIMES.
OR ARE YOU GOING SENILE AND DEAF, OLD FART?
I MEAN...
...ST. PHELIOS... HE DEFEATED THE VAMPIRE DUZELL, BUT HE DIDN'T SURVIVE THE BATTLE, SIR.
WHAT IS SHE DOING?
NO SIR!
DARRES! DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

JUST KIDDING.
I'D USE A FORK, NOT A SPOON...
LADY ISHTAR!
WHAT?
HEH HEH
VERY AMUSING.
LADY ISHTAR, YOU ARE A DIRECT DESCENDANT OF THE HOLY KING PHELIOS.
YOUR VEINS ARE A SACRED VESSEL FOR HIS SAINTED BLOOD.
IT IS YOUR DUTY TO MARRY A MAN WHO WILL STRENGTHEN THIS BLOODLINE...
...AND PRODUCE AN HEIR WORTHY OF YOUR HOLY ANCESTRY.

"...AND LAUGH WHILE YOUR SOUL WRITHES, CONDEMNED FOR ETERNITY TO A LAKE OF FIRE."

UGH! WHY DO ALL THESE OLD KINGS HAVE TO BE SO OVERLY DRAMATIC?
BESIDES, IF I EVER RUN INTO PHELIOS' REINCARNATION, I'LL SPOON OUT HIS EYES AND FLAY HIM ALIVE MYSELF...
...INSTEAD OF WAITING FOR SOME MOLDY OLD VAMPIRE TO DO IT.

"AFTER A CENTURY OF DARKNESS, YOUR SOUL WILL LIVE AGAIN IN THE BODY OF ONE OF YOUR DESCENDANTS."
"AT THAT TIME, I WILL ALSO BE REBORN. AND WHEN WE MEET... I WILL DRAIN YOUR BLOOD, TEAR YOUR BODY LIMB FROM LIMB..."

SNEAK
I TRIED TO FIGHT! BUT ITS CLAWS, ITS FANGS...
I SAW IT! I SAW IT KILL MY FATHER!!
IT'S A MONSTER!
RAO ...
WE SENT OUT A HUNTING PARTY, BUT THE KYAWL EVADED ALL THEIR TRAPS.
WHEN THEY FINALLY CORNERED IT, IT FOUGHT LIKE A DEMON, THEN ESCAPED.
RAO HERE LOST HIS FATHER...

I BEG YOUR GRACE'S PARDON, BUT THERE'S BEEN AN ATTACK, SIR. A VAMPIRIC ATTACK IN THE VILLAGE OF MILAN! THE MAYOR IS HERE AND REQUESTS AN AUDIENCE.
SIR KELD!
VAMPIRES ?
THERE HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN THREE ATTACKS THAT WE KNOW OF, YOUR GRACE. ALL THREE VICTIMS WERE COMPLETELY DRAINED OF THEIR BLOOD.
AROUND THE BODIES, WE FOUND KYAWL TRACKS.
IT'S STRANGE, BECAUSE KYAWLS FEED ON FRUIT NECTAR AND TREE SAP.
NOBODY IN MILAN HAS HEARD OF A KYAWL ATTACKING ANOTHER ANIMAL, LET ALONE A HUMAN.

...GETTING HER OUT OF TROUBLE, CLEANING UP HER MESS. ONCE, I WAS A SWORDSMAN. NOW, I'M THE ROYAL BABYSITTER. JUST THINKING ABOUT IT...
...BUT I'VE BEEN LADY ISHTAR'S BODYGUARD SINCE SHE WAS 5 YEARS OLD. THAT'S 10 YEARS THAT I'VE BEEN CHASING THAT BRAT AROUND...
...MAKES ME WANT TO PUKE.
LISTEN, YOU GUYS ARE NEW HERE...
...OR GIVING THE OLD MAN A HEART ATTACK! IT WOULD TAKE TWO SHRINKS AND A SQUAD OF POLICE DETECTIVES TO FIGURE OUT THE MOTIVES BEHIND JUST ONE OF HER NUMBSKULL STUNTS.
MY JOB IS JUST TO KEEP HER FROM BREAKING HER NECK...

...JUST SO HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO HER WHINE...
SOMETIMES I THINK THE OLD MAN WENT DEAF...
WOW, 10 YEARS OF THAT BITCH? AND I THOUGHT HAVING TO SHOVEL HORSE SHIT WAS BAD!

...IS A KYAWL? A CAT?
SO... YOU'RE SAYING... THAT THIS "VAMPIRE" ...

PLEASE, YOUR GRACE. PLEASE HELP US!!

HOW SHOULD I KNOW?
...WHAT'S LADY ISHTAR GOT AGAINST HER GREAT-GRANDFATHER, ANYWAY?

YES.
UMM...

CAPTAIN DARRES...

YOU MORON! EVEN THE DEMON DUZELL HAS MORE PRIDE THAN TO RETURN AS A PUSSY-CAT!
YOUR GRACE, COULD THESE ATTACKS MEAN THAT THE VAMPIRES HAVE RETURNED? IS THIS THE START OF ANOTHER WAR?
IS THE LESSON REALLY WORTH RESUMING?
LET'S RESUME OUR LESSON.
THE KYAWL IS OBVIOUSLY JUST RABID, AND ITS DELIRIUM IS MAKING IT ATTACK HUMANS. THE GAME WARDENS WILL HANDLE IT.
NOW, WHERE IS LADY ISHTAR?
SHE'S IN HER ROOM, NOW.

I REALLY...
IT WAS DIFFER-ENT WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE.
SHE WAS ACTU-ALLY KINDA SWEET...
...LIKE YOU, DARRES.
SIR KELD!
WHEN I GROW UP...

LADY ISHTAR!
CAPTAIN! SIDIA, THE HOLY SWORD IS ALSO MISSING!
NOT AGAIN!
...WOULD TROUBLE THE HOLY KNIGHTS WITH OUR PROBLEM.
THANK YOU FOR COMING, SIR KNIGHT.
I DIDN'T THINK HIS GRACE...
Lady Ishtar dressed as a Holy Knight

AND IF THE SWORD ISN'T ENOUGH ...
...I'M SURE DARRES WILL BE HERE SOON.
THAT CHILD...
DARRES ?
LET'S GO!
NEVER MIND.

THE HOLY KNIGHTS SHOULD INVESTI-GATE ANY REPORTS OF VAMPIRISM.
IT'S THEIR DUTY, RIGHT?
DIDN'T THE VAMPIRE KING THREATEN TO RETURN IN A CENTURY? AND HERE WE ARE 99 & 1/2 YEARS LATER...
THE OLD MAN MUST REALLY BE LOSING IT TO IGNORE THIS.

OH...
...DON'T BLAME THE OLD MAN-- I MEAN, SIR KELD.
IT'S NOT THAT HE DOESN'T CARE, HE'S JUST BEEN UNDER A LOT OF STRESS LATELY ...
...AND ...

...HAS OBVIOUSLY LOST HIS MIND.

.....

ARE YOU REALLY --
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE SIDIA, THE HOLY SWORD OF ST. PHELIOS?
A HOLY KNIGHT ? OF COURSE !

I CAN GIVE YOU THE POWER TO GET CLOSE TO YOUR ENEMY
BUT YOUR REVENGE IS ROOM-RUSTIC. AND AFTER WHAT YOU'VE DONE, THE VILLAGERS WILL BE ON THEIR GUARD
?.....
I'VE TASTED THE BLOOD OF AN INNO-CENT
TO CAST THE SPELL, WE'LL NEED THE BLOOD OF A HUMAN WOMAN.
SHAPE-SHIFT? VERY WELL
...AND CATCH THE LAST MURDERER UNAWARES.
THEN WE CAN TAKE ON HER APPEAR-ANCE...

FATHER !!!
...IS THE SON OF YOUR THIRD VICTIM.
THAT HUMAN CAME TO KILL ME.
BUT HE WASN'T ONE OF THE WRETCHES THAT KILLED MY BABIES
I WAS WRONG TO TAKE HIS LIFE
BUT ONE OF THE MEN WHO TORTURED YOUR KITTENS IS STILL OUT THERE.

IT'S PAUL!
THERE'S BEEN ANOTHER VICTIM!
PAUL WAS ONE OF THE LOCAL HOOLIGANS. HIS FRIENDS WERE THE FIRST TWO VICTIMS.
I WARNED HIM...
YES ...
THE FOURTH ONE?

MAYOR!!
...I MUST HAVE BLOOD !!!
TO MOLD FLESH AND BONE...
I NEED THE POWER IN BLOOD TO WEAVE THE SPELL OF METAMORPHOSIS.
MY MAGIC IS STILL WEAK IN THIS WORLD.
?

SO THE KYAWL IS AVENGING THE MURDER OF HER CHILDREN?
YES.
I SWEAR, BY THE GOD OF JUSTICE.
NOT FOR THE FUR...
...NOT FOR THE MEAT, BUT...
...FOR FUN.

HIS PART?
...NOT TO LEAVE THE HOUSE, CONSIDERING HIS PART IN ALL THIS.
SIA!
HIS GANG TORTURED AND KILLED...
...A LITTER OF KYAWL KITTENS.

MAYOR!
SIA HAS BEEN ATTA-CKED!!
BECAUSE...
...THIS CHILD'S FATHER WASN'T INVOLVED, RIGHT?
WHY WAS HE KILLED?
BUT SIA'S RIGHT HERE!

IF YOUR CHILD WAS TORTURED AND KILLED...
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?!
...WHAT WOULD YOU DO?!
BUT...
THEN...
...THESE DEATHS ARE JUSTIFIED!

WHAT?
あ
THE BEAST IS SIA!

WHAT JUST HAPPENED?
IT'S GONE!
PAUL AND HIS FRIENDS HAVE BROUGHT THE WRATH OF THE GODS UPON US!
RAO, FIVE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED.
DO YOU REALLY WANT TO CONTINUE THIS CYCLE OF VENGEANCE?
YES

THIS KNIGHT...
...MAY BE THE ONE I SEEK.
...MORE THE BLADE OF MY ENEMY, KING PHILIOS.
PHILIOS WAS ONE OF THE FEW HUMANS THAT COULD HARNESS ITS HOLY MAGIC.
THE TASTE OF HER BLOOD, AND I WILL KNOW.
THEN...
I NEED TO KNOW IF SHE IS THE REINCARNATION OF PHILIOS.
HOW?
...HIS BODY WILL HOUSE YOUR SOUL WHILE YOU PURSUE YOUR REVENGE.
...I WILL HELP YOU FIND YOURS.
I AM READY TO GIVE BIRTH TO A SON...
I HAVE SLAIN MY ENEMY.
AND AS I PROMISED, DEMON...
THANK YOU, BEAST ...
...BEFORE I AM READY FOR HIM.
...BUT IT APPEARS THAT MY ENEMY HAS FOUND ME...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE KNIGHT IN THE VILLAGE ...

I'LL ATONE FOR MY TRANS-GRESSION BY SACRIFICING MYSELF ON HIS SWORD
WHEN THIS IS FINISHED...
WE BOTH KNOW THE AGONY OF LOSING ONE'S FAMILY.
HIS HEART AND MINE ARE BOUND BY COMMON TRAGEDY.

...AND DRAIN HER BLOOD WITH YOUR FANGS.
...I WILL TEAR HER TO PIECES WITH YOUR CLAWS...
SHE IS PHILIOS...
VERY WELL.
THE CHILD ?
WHY ?
HOWEVER, YOU MUST SWEAR NOT TO HARM THE CHILD

LADY ISHTAR!
YEAH...
I FEEL SORRY FOR THAT KYAWL.
I DON'T UNDER-STAND ...
...AND END THIS CIRCLE OF REVENGE.
COME ON!
...SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE GIVEN HER YEARS AGO... A SPANKING !!!
WHEN I FIND THAT BRAT, I'M GONNA GIVE HER...

THE KYAWL HAS TO BE DES-TROYED.
RAO, YOU'LL GET YOUR REVENGE.
IT'S DANGER-OUS, AND IT CAN'T BE ALLOWED TO ROAM FREE.
BESIDES...
...THERE'S SOMETHING UN-NATURAL ABOUT THAT CAT.
YOUR FATHER'S SOUL WILL BE AT PEACE.
?
SIR KNIGHT?
YOU SMELL GOOD. KINDA LIKE A LADY
!
UH... REALLY?
IT COULD CHANGE ITS SHAPE AND SPEAK.

YES ... I UNDER-STAND
I CAN'T FORGIVE IT FOR THAT!!
...BUT IT KILLED MY FATHER!

AHHHHHHH!!!
HOLY MAGIC?!
SIR KNIGHT!!!

LADY ISHTAR!!
I CAN SMELL HIS BLOOD !!!
THIS MUST BE PHILIOS !!!

I CAME SO CLOSE...
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
WHEN THIS IS FINISHED...
I COULD SEE THE FEAR IN HER EYES.
LIKE A FOOL, I WAS DISTRACTED BY HER HOLY MAGIC...
THUD!!

SHH!
BUT WHAT IF I HAD SHOWN UP A MINUTE LATER ?!
..I KNEW YOU'D SHOW UP SOONER OR LATER...
MEOW
MEOW
...TO TRY TO GIVE ME THAT STUPID SPANKING YOU SAY I HAVE COMING

I NEEDED TO FIND OUT WHY...
IDIOT! YOU KILLED HER!
...I DIDN'T NOTICE THE OTHER KNIGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU COMPLAIN-ING ABOUT?!
YOU WOULD HAVE BEEN CAT CHOW IF NOT FOR ME! YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR A BEAST LIKE THIS!
I WASN'T WORRIED ..

MEOW
MEOW
OH, MY FEET...
...WHY DO THEY SEARCH FOR WARMTH?

MY EYES, WHY CAN'T I SEE?
MEOW
MEOW

SIR KNIGHT !!!
OF ALL CONCEIVABLE INDIGNITIES...
...TO DIE...
ゴソゴソ
MEOW
...AS A HELPLESS CREATURE, AT THE HAND...
...OF A GIRL THAT COULD BE PHELIOS.

THAT I CAN UNDER-STAND.
GOOD BOY.
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK, DARRES?
WE COULD DO WITH A FEW LESS MICE AROUND THE CASTLE DON'T YOU THINK?
NO...
...I JUST FEEL SORRY FOR HIM.
HE'S CRYING BECAUSE HIS MOTHER'S DEAD.

I'M SORRY WE KILLED YOUR MOTHER, LITTLE ONE.
WE HAD NO CHOICE.
WE'RE NOT CERTAIN WHY, BUT SHE KILLED RAO'S FATHER.
RAO, DO YOU HATE THE LITTLE GUY?
DO YOU WANT TO KILL HIM?

.....
THE BLOOD OF PHELIOS FLOWS IN HER VEINS...
...BUT SHE'S NOT HIS REINCAR-NATION.
...BUT IT'S PURE ENOUGH TO REVEAL...
...THAT PHELIOS WILL SOON BE BORN INTO THIS FAMILY AGAIN.
HER BLOOD IS NOT PURE ENOUGH FOR THAT...
HOW ABOUT PUFFY-PUFF?
YOUR HIGH-NESS ...
...WE KNOW YOU WANT TO KEEP THE CAT. BUT WHY DON'T YOU GIVE IT A DIFFERENT NAME?

WOW!
IT BIT ME!
C'MON.. WE'RE GOING HOME
DARRES, KILL IT!!
YOU'RE SUCH A LITTLE BLOOD-SUCKER, I'M NAMING YOU DUZELL.

THAT SPELL...

吸血遊戯
Act.2

I SUPPOSE I COULD NAME IT ST. PHELIOS.
!!
!!
PUFFY-PUFF?
YOU HAVE GOT TO BE KIDDING ME.
DARRES, PLEASE DON'T TALK ANYMORE!
GOOD.
WE AGREE ON SOME-THING FOR ONCE!
I THINK DUZELL IS FINE, LADY ISHTAR.
I DON'T THINK I SHARE THE GODS' SENSE OF HUMOR.
I'M A PET NOW? IN THE HOUSE OF PHELIOS?
HOWEVER, IF I STAY HERE LONG ENOUGH, I'M SURE TO FIND HIS REINCAR-NATION.
AND WHEN I DO...

PHELIOS!
吸血遊戯
Act.2

THAT SPELL WILL DESTROY US BOTH!
YOU'RE WILLING TO SACRIFICE YOURSELF?

THEN WHAT IS THE POINT OF VICTORY ?!!

I'VE RE-ENTERED THIS WORLD, CHASING PHELIOS' SOUL..
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
...AND FOUND HIS GREAT-GRAND-DAUGHTER, ISHTAR.
FUNNY THEY LOOK NOTHING ALIKE
BUT PHELIOS WILL BE REINCAR-NATED IN THIS FAMILY.
...
A VISION FROM ANOTHER LIFE...
..A NIGHTMARE..
..LASTING ONE HUNDRED YEARS..
PHELIOS!
MEOW!

IN THE FIELDS?
...WE WERE GONNA PLAY WITH RAO IN THE FIELDS BEHIND THE VILLAGE.
I WAS GOING TO WAKE UP EARLY, AND...
SHOOT, I OVER-SLEPT.

SHE MUST BE JOKING.
WHAT DOES SHE THINK I AM?
PLEASE HURRY, YOUR HIGH-NESS!

AND EVEN IF HE DOESN'T REMEMBER HIS PREVIOUS LIFE...
...EVEN IF HE LOOKS DIFFERENT.
YOUR HIGH-NESS?

YOUR HIGH-NESS, WAKE UP.
YOUR BREAKFAST IS READY.
BREAK-FAST!!

IS SHE SERIOUS?
WHY DON'T YOU EAT SOMETHING?
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG WITH THE FOOD?
LADY ISHTAR...
...KYAWLS ONLY CONSUME LIQUIDS. THEY CAN'T DIGEST SOLID FOOD.
. . .
. . . . . .

HOW IS IT, YOUR HIGHNESS?
IT'S OKAY.
...
THIS, THIS IS OKAY TOO...
BUT THIS ...

GOOD MORNING, YOUR HIGHNESS.
LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR SCHEDULE FOR TODAY.
AFTER THAT, YOU HAVE ETIQUETTE, THEN MILITARY TACTICS.
IN THE AFTER-NOON—
STOP!
YOUR FIRST CLASS IS HOLY MAGIC, WITH YUJINN.

THE CAPTAIN PAID A VISIT TO THE LIBRARY...
IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE.
WHO TOLD YOU THAT, DARRES?
THIS SHOULD BE FINE, THEN.
HERE YOU GO, DUZELL.

HOLY MAGIC...
AH, LADY ISHTAR ...
...YOU LOOK LOVELY TODAY, AS ALWAYS.
THE FLOWERS OF THE MEADOW PALE IN COMPARI-SON TO YOUR BEAUTY.
気まずい沈黙
LADY ISH-TAR!
THIS PRINCESS CRAP IS BAD ENOUGH! BUT DO YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE SENTENCING ME?
HUH?
...A TIME WHEN HER ROYAL HIGHNESS WASN'T A ROYAL PAIN-IN-THE-ASS?
AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO REMEMBERS...
DARRES!
DARRES!

NOW, DARRES...
IF THAT'S WHAT HER MAJESTY WANTS...
LADY ISHTAR, BE REASONABLE.
...THAT'S STILL POWERFUL ENOUGH TO TURN MY ENEMY INSIDE OUT.
ANYTHING WORTH LEARNING TAKES TIME AND PRACTICE IF MAGIC WERE THAT EASY, BEGGARS WOULD BE RIDING BROOMSTICKS.
LADY ISH--
YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE THE OLD MAN YOU'LL BE GOING DEAF AND PLAYING SHUFFLEBOARD NEXT.

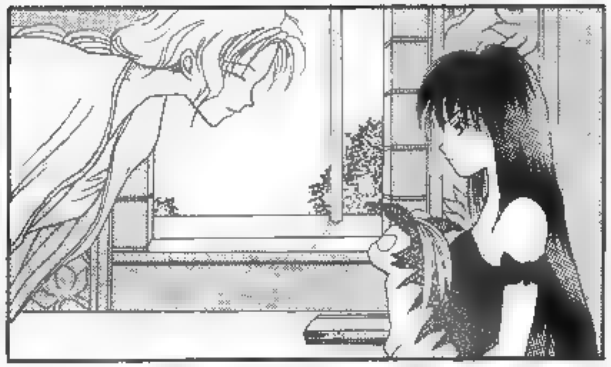
...
ENOUGH WITH THE FLATTERY. LET'S GET STARTED.
FLATTERY ?!
TEACH ME A SHORT SPELL.
SOMETHING A BEGINNER CAN USE..

WELL, WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR? TEACH ME, TEACHER!
THIS IS IT...
!!
...THE SPELL OF "LA GAMME."

YES, BUT JUST ONE.
...THERE IS SUCH A SPELL...
...YU-JINN?
YOU MEAN ...

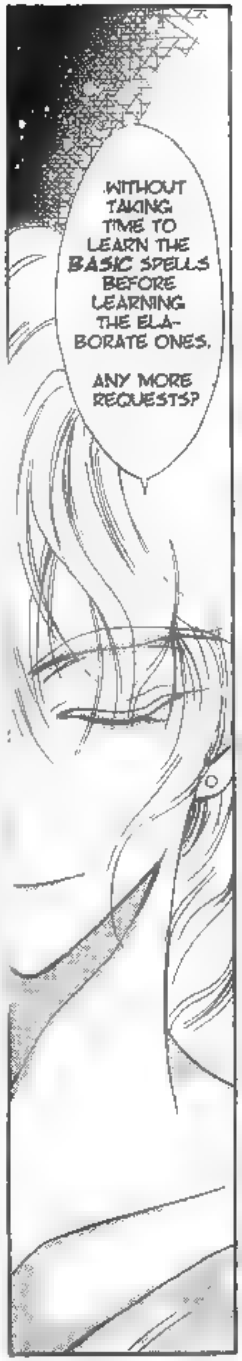
THERE IS A CATCH.
THE SPELL USES YOUR OWN LIFE-FORCE AS A WEAPON
IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL...
WHAT WAS IT? OH YEAH!
IT WILL "TURN YOUR ENEMY INSIDE OUT," BUT YOU'LL ALSO PERISH IN THE PROCESS.

SHH! HOLD ON!
YU-JINN! NO!!
WOW! IT'S REALLY SHORT.
THAT'S THE SPELL PHELIOS USED IN THE FINAL BATTLE..
WITH KING DUZELL!
I COULD MEMORIZE THIS, EASY.



YES.
YOU CAN GET RID OF THE SMUG GRIN AND GIVE ME MY HOLY MAGIC LESSON
LET'S MEMORIZE MORE LONG AND USELESS SPELLS, DREAMT UP BY SOME DODDERING OLD WIZARD

AS YOU WISH.


WITHOUT TAKING TIME TO LEARN THE BASIC SPELLS BEFORE LEARNING THE ELABORATE ONES.
ANY MORE REQUESTS?

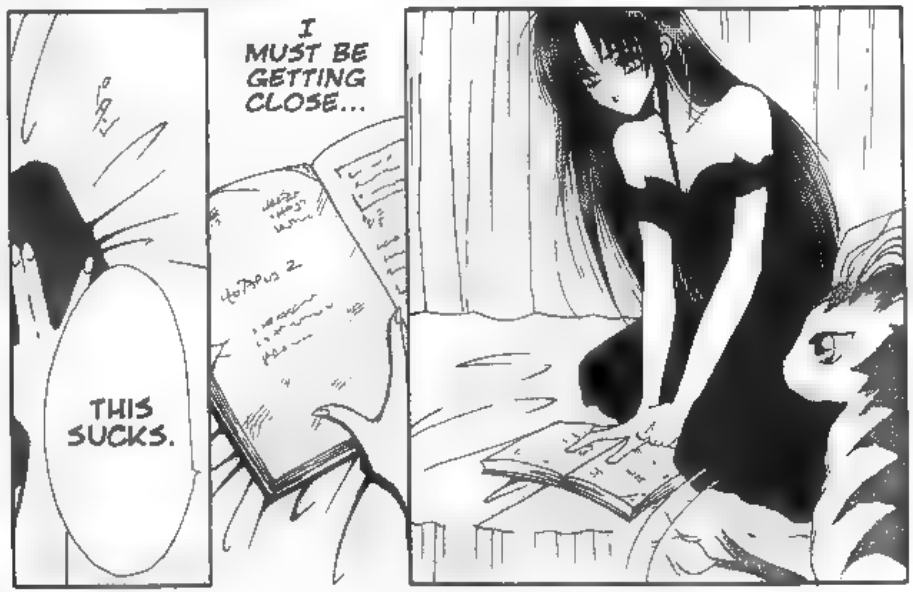
WELL, WHAT'S THE BLOODY POINT IN THAT?!

THE KIND OF IDIOT THAT EXPECTS TO DEFEAT HER ENEMY

I MEAN, WHAT SORT OF IDIOT WOULD USE A SPELL...
...THAT REQUIRES HER TO COMMIT SUICIDE TO CAST IT?!

THE MEADOWS SHOULD BE FULL OF FLOWERS NOW.
AND BUTTER-FLIES!
HEY DUZELL, HOW ABOUT WE PLAY HOOKY TOMOR-ROW?
WE'LL SNEAK OUT OF THE CASTLE AND PLAY IN THE FIELDS!
.....

SIDIA, THE HOLY SWORD
"LA GAMME," THE DEADLY SPELL
...IS OVERFLOWING WITH THINGS THAT SMELL LIKE PHELIOS
THIS PLACE...

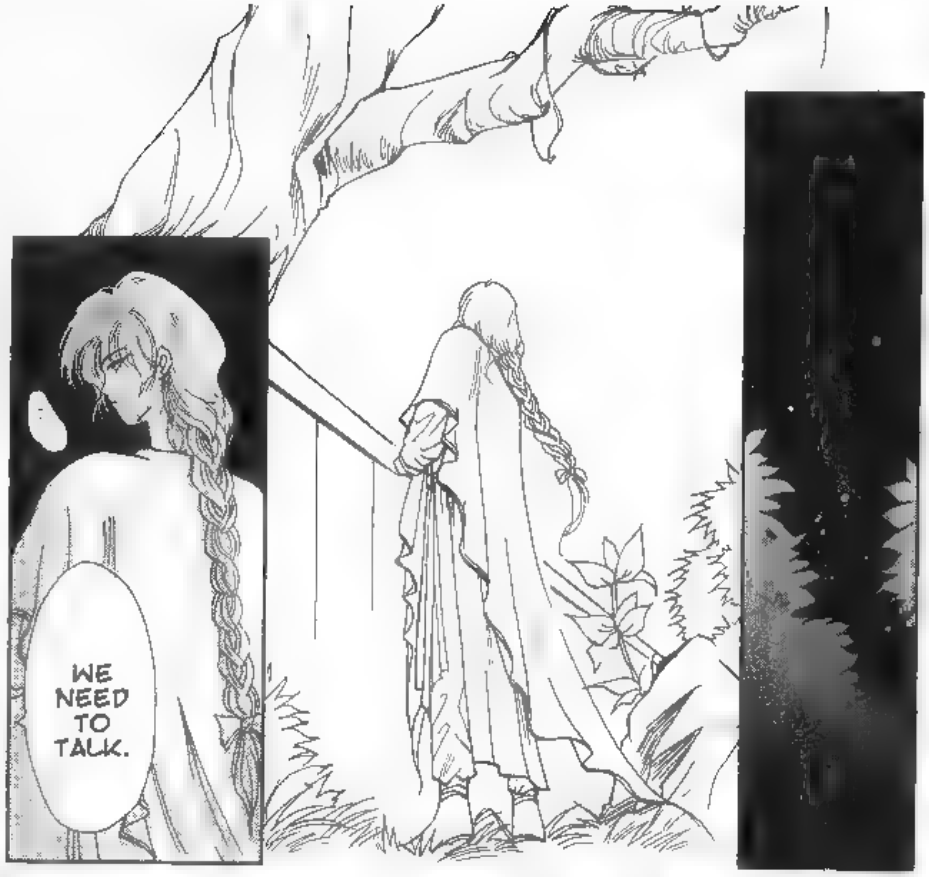

I MUST BE GETTING CLOSE...
THIS SUCKS.

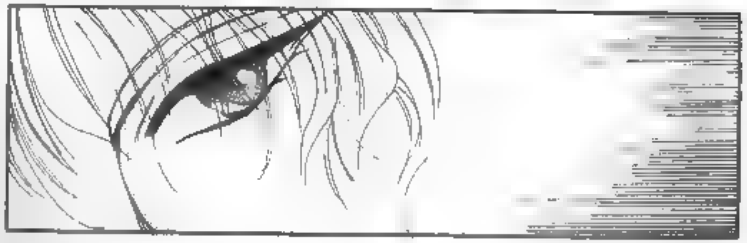
HERE, DUZIE.
THIS IS OKAY.
YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANY-THING ALL DAY. YOU MUST BE STARV-ING.
HUH?
.....

トントン
DUZIE?!
きゅ
DUZIE HAS NEVER SEEN A BUTTER-FLY, RIGHT?
YOU'RE JUST A WIDDLE KITTEN...
YOUR HIGH-NESS ?
WHY, I'LL BET IT WILL BE NEARLY SUNSET ...
...BEFORE DARRES FINDS US.
I'VE BROUGHT THE WARM MILK AND FRUIT YOU REQUESTED.
'CAUSE HE WILL FIND US.
LEAVE IT THERE.
?

USUALLY, THAT MAN...
...?!
!!

IN OTHER WORDS...
...THIS IS MY DINNER?
DARRES IS SO STUPID.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT THEY EAT AS ADULTS...
...ALL BABIES NEED MILK.


WE NEED TO TALK.



NOT OKAY...
DON'T EAT IT...
...DU.
THAT'S... NOT OKAY.
DRIP DRIP
POISON ?!

DARRES ...
IT'S ABOUT THIS MORNING'S LESSON.
YOU KNOW HOW DANGEROUS THAT SPELL IS!
OH, WAIT.
WHAT ABOUT IT?
YOU'RE GOING TO LECTURE ME BECAUSE I SHOWED HER "LA GAMME."
...DON'T GET SO UPSET.
YOU HEARD WHAT SHE SAID, RIGHT?
FUNNY, I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN YOU BY YOURSELF BEFORE.
YOU'RE LIKE LADY ISHTAR'S SHADOW.
OH, HELLO DARRES.
I'D HAVE GUESSED..
...YOU'D BE BUSY WATCHING HER SLEEP RIGHT NOW.
MMM.. I THINK SO.
WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?
YOU THROUGH MOCKING ME?!

I DEEPLY ...
...RESPECT KING PHELIOS.
YUJINN ONLY CAME TO PHELIOSTA LAST YEAR.
HOW MUCH COULD HE KNOW?
?
AND ISHTAR AND KING PHELIOS ...
...THEY HAVE...

ISHTAR...
PHELIOS...
INCONSIDERATE?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M HEARING!
SHE'S ALREADY MORE DOWN TO EARTH THAN THE KING EVER WAS.
...NOT LIKE HER INCONSIDERATE GREAT-GRANDFATHER, KING PHELIOS.
...DESPITE HER LITTLE OUTBURSTS AND TANTRUMS, WOULD NEVER THROW AWAY HER LIFE ON A WHIM...
THE PRINCESS THAT YOU AND SIR KELD HAVE SPENT SO MUCH TIME ON...
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!!

IT'S LADY ISHTAR !!!
HELP! TREAS- ON!

...MORE IN COMMON THAN ANYONE REALIZES.
IT SCARES ME TO THINK ABOUT IT.
PHELIOS AND ISHTAR...
...SHARE THE SAME BLOOD...
...AND ...TH CAN BE... INCONSIDERATE.
DARRES ...

...IN LINE FOR THE THRONE IF SHE DIED.
SOMEONE...
I THOUGHT SHE WAS IMMUNE TO ALL OF THEM.
WE'VE GIVEN HER A VARIETY OF POISONS.
...IN SMALL DOSES, OF COURSE ...
...REGULARLY SINCE SHE WAS A CHILD.

WHO COULD HAVE DONE THIS?!
IT WOULD HAVE TO BE SOMEONE CLOSE TO HER.

"YOU HAVEN'T EATEN ANYTHING ALL DAY."
"HERE, DUZIE."

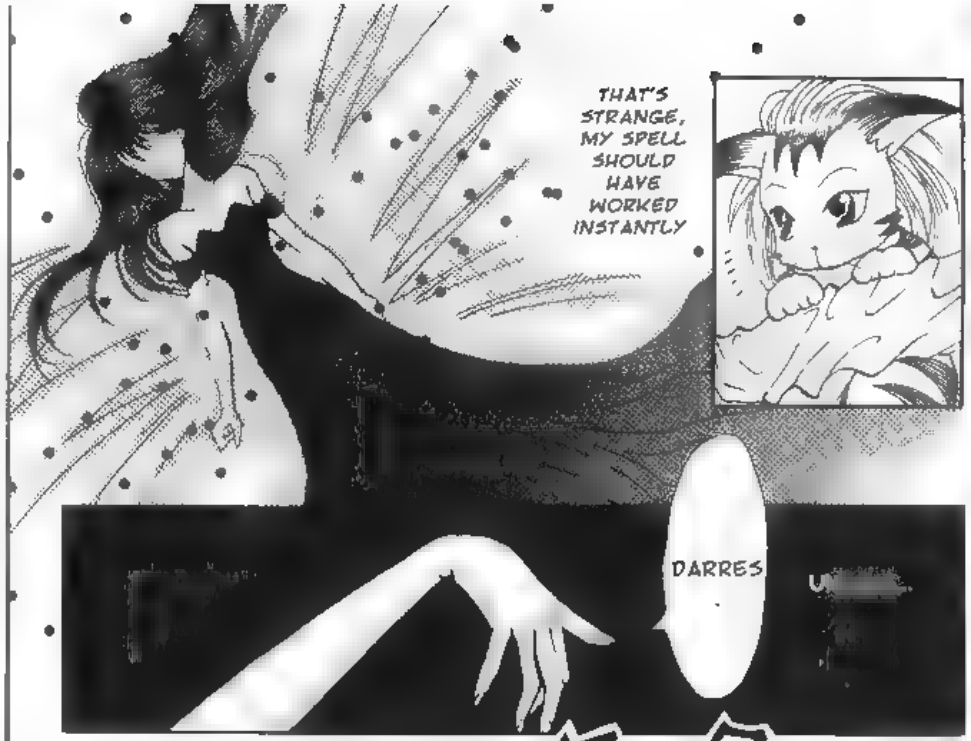
OVER AND OVER...
...I TOLD HER THAT SHE NEEDED A TASTER.
BUT...
...AFTER THE DEATH OF THE THIRD ONE...
...SHE REFUSED TO PUT ANY OTHERS AT RISK.
"THIS IS OKAY..."

吸血遊戯
Act.3
SHE WAS... TRYING TO FEED ME.
I NEED HER... HELP.
SHE IS PHELIOS' GREAT-GRAND-DAUGHTER, BUT I'M NOT PREPARED TO LET HER DIE.
THAT'S NOT OKAY

AHH
HHH
!
THAT LITTLE MON-STER!
THE KY AWL !!!
吸血遊戯
Act.3

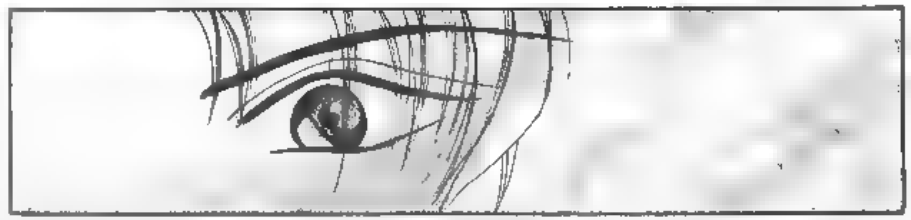
RIGHT ON TIME, CAPTAIN DARRES.
GRAB THAT THING!
IT'S OKAY.
HE CUT HIS PAW ON THE BROKEN GLASS.
HE GOT SPOOKED, THAT'S ALL.
!!

THIS SPELL REQUIRES ONLY A FEW DROPS OF BLOOD, YET IS CAPABLE OF NEUTRALIZING ANY POISON.
DRIP
BANG
AAAH!
AAAH!
LADY ISHTAR !!!
HER HIGHNESS!


THAT'S STRANGE, MY SPELL SHOULD HAVE WORKED INSTANTLY
DARRES

きゃ
LADY ISHTAR!

LADY ISHTAR!
DARRES, IT BURNS ...



...!

DID I CAST THE WRONG SPELL?
CONFUSED KITTY
DARRES
YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT..
...LADY ISHTAR.
SOMETHING STRANGE IS GOING ON HERE...
LADY ISHTAR

OH...
DUZIE!
POUNCE
AND I SEE THAT THE "BIT" IS OVER
HEY! THAT'S NOT NICE!
I WAS REALLY FEELING BAD THERE FOR A BIT.
Yujinn!!
I TOLD YOU WE WERE GOING TO PLAY HOOKY TODAY, DIDN'T I?
SO, YOU WERE JUST FAKING?
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

"THANK YOU, CUTIE."
DUZIE!
DUZIE!
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL ON ME, ARE YOU?
NO.
YOU CAN HAVE TODAY OFF.
THANK YOU, CUTIE!

LADY ISHTAR.
C'MON! WAKE UP!
HMM... WELL, I CAN TELL IT'S NOT GOING TO BE HARD TO FOOL THESE GENIUSES.
AND I ALREADY HAVE SOME OF ISHTAR'S BLOOD...

WHAT IS THAT GIRL THINKING?
WAKE UP, IDIOT. THE GIRL'S MADE A FOOL OF YOU: AGAIN
.....

A PERFECT COPY!

SHE'LL BE PLAYING IN THE FIELDS FOR HOURS...

AT LEAST UNTIL BARRES FINDS HER.

THUMP

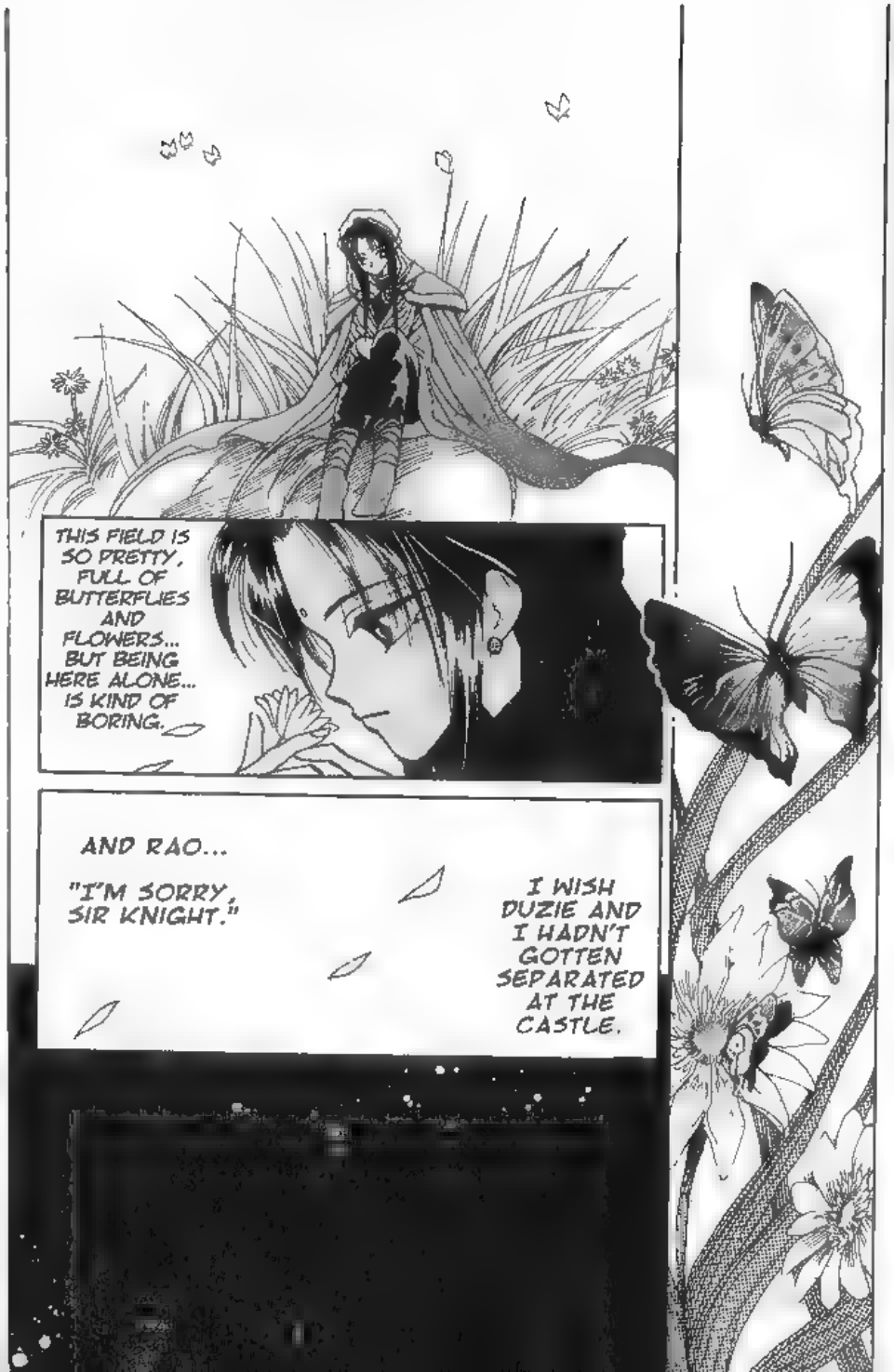
IN THE MEANTIME...

SNEAK

.....
YOU KNOW... CLOTHES.
I'M GOING TO NEED AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
I'M FINE NOW.
BUT WOULD YOU MIND GETTING ME SOME...
...CLOTHES?
.....
SOMETHING WITH A HIGH NECKLINE.
OR WOULD YOU RATHER I JUST WEAR YOURS?
I GUESS I CAN'T CHANGE GENDERS YET.
UH... OOPS ...
OKAY, SO THERE ARE A FEW SMALL DIFFERENCES.
LADY ISHTAR!!
BUT THIS'LL DO FOR NOW.
..POISON!
THE ...

WHAT?
UH...
CAP-
TAIN
...
...DO YOU THINK THE POISON MESSED WITH HER HEAD?
WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE, SOME KIND OF IDIOT?
YOUR TEST WAS A JOKE! JUST LIKE THIS CLASS!
REALLY?
ASIDE FROM THE GOOD TEST SCORES, I'D SAY SHE'S ABOUT NORMAL.
NOT TO MENTION THAT SHE'S TWICE THE BITCH SHE USUALLY IS.
SHE HAD PERFECT SCORES IN THREE SUB-JECTS TODAY.
YES, SIR!
SORRY, SIR!
JILL'
KRAI!

...SHE HAD CLOTHES ON LAST NIGHT.
I DON'T GET IT...
?
I HEARD YOU WERE ILL LAST NIGHT, BUT IT OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T SET YOU BACK. YOU EVEN GOT ALL THE TRICK QUESTIONS!
STRANGE, IT TOOK YOU THREE TRIES TO PASS THE LAST TEST..
CONGRAT-ULATIONS, YOUR HIGHNESS! A PERFECT SCORE!


THIS FIELD IS SO PRETTY, FULL OF BUTTERFLIES AND FLOWERS... BUT BEING HERE ALONE... IS KIND OF BORING.
AND RAO...
"I'M SORRY, SIR KNIGHT."
I WISH DUZIE AND I HADN'T GOTTEN SEPARATED AT THE CASTLE.

DARRES...
...WHAT'S MY NEXT CLASS?
YOUR MAGIC LESSON WITH YUJINN.
THE WIZARD. IF ANYONE WOULD KNOW ABOUT THE REINCARNATION OF PHELIOS...

IF I HURRY, I CAN STILL MAKE YUJINN'S CLASS.
WELL, NOW...
I WONDER WHAT HE'S THINKING?
SO... ...WHAT MADE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND?

MY FATHER'S GONE, AND MY MOTHER'S SICK. AND IF I DON'T WORK, WE'LL BOTH BE HUNGRY.
BUT I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
NO NEED TO BE SORRY, RAO. I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY ...
...SO SORRY.
AFTER ALL... ...HE STAYED UP ALL NIGHT TAKING CARE OF ME.
AWW! MAYBE I SHOULD GO HOME AND GIVE DARRES A BREAK TODAY.

HMM ...
YES, I BELIEVE SO.
I'D SAY THERE WAS DEFINITELY MAGIC INVOLVED
!?
AND IT WAS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT KIND ..
...THAN THE HOLY MAGIC WE STUDY.
NOT ALL MAGIC USERS ARE GOOD ...
...BUT NO HUMAN HAS EVER USED MAGIC...
...FOR AN ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.

THERE IS?
GO AHEAD.
WELL, THERE WAS SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU.
HUH?
?
YOU HAD PLANS FOR TODAY.
OH, THAT...
ABOUT LAST NIGHT...
...DO YOU THINK THE POISONER USED BLACK MAGIC?

...WHO DO YOU THINK IT WAS?
GIVE ME...
...THE NAMES OF SOME LIKELY SUSPECTS.
!!

役立たずの三人
OUR IMPERIAL GUARDS HAVE THEIR WORK CUT OUT FOR THEM...
...SINCE THE ASSASSIN...
...WILL DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO AVOID BEING LINKED TO THE POISON.
I SEE...
THE PRIZE IS THE THRONE ANYONE OBTAINING IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE SUSPECT
SO, YUJINN ...

WHEN DID LADY ISHTAR CHANGE CLOTHES?
AND SINCE WHEN IS SHE SO FOND OF YUJINN'S SPELLS?
BYE!
URR...
BYE?
HI KELD. NICE DAY, HUH? JUST ON MY WAY TO CLASS.
OH, UH...
I'D LOVE TO CHAT, BUT I'M SURE THAT YUJINN HAS SOME DUSTY SPELLS WAITING FOR ME... I JUST LOVE THOSE SPELLS YOU KNOW.
CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF 'EM
LADY ISHTAR, IN A SCENARIO LIKE THIS, SPECULATION DOES MORE HARM THAN GOOD.

HMM...
IT'S A LETTER FROM LADY RAMIA, IN LA NAAN.
SIR KELD...
...A LETTER FOR HER HIGHNESS.
WHAT?
YOUR HIGH-NESS?!
OOPS!

BUT I STILL WANT TO KNOW.
?!
LOOK INTO MY EYES, AND ANSWER ME, YUJINN.

AFTER ALL, IF THE GOAL WAS TO OBTAIN THE THRONE, THE SUSPECTS WOULD ALL BE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY, AT LEAST TECHNICALLY.
TECHNICALLY, YES.

YOUR HIGH-NESS...
...CAPTAIN DARRES IS RIGHT.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE DIRECT DESCEN-DANTS OF PHELIOS?
AND WHERE ARE THEY?
WHAT?
SHE'S USING A SPELL OF TRUTH ON ME.
BUT HOW?
YUJINN, I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM HER HIGHNESS.
ISHTAR ?!

YOUR HIGH-NESS?
いやだ!

YU-JINN, WHAT DID YOU JUST DO?!
IT WAS JUST A SPELL TO REVEAL THE UNDEAD.
CATCH IT, DARRES!
IT WASN'T HUMAN !!!

Act.4
HEY, YOU'RE ...
?!
... DUZELL ?
SHE KNOWS!

STOP!
WHERE DID IT GO?!
WHY?

Act.4

I THOUGHT SO!
YOU CAN CHANGE SHAPE!
YOU KNEW?
WHAT DID YOU DO?
YOU DIDN'T RAID THE KITCHEN DID YOU?
I JUST DID THAT LAST WEEK.
IT WOULD REALLY MAKE ME LOOK AWFUL IF YOU DID IT AGAIN--

YUJINN TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE CHASING AN ASSASSIN?
HE MUST'VE MADE A MISTAKE. READING ALL THOSE BOOKS CAN'T BE GOOD FOR YOUR EYES.
AN ASSASSIN?
IT LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE CHASING HER HIGHNESS.

MAYBE SHE'S IN HER CHAMBERS?
WHOSE CHAMBERS? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? AN ASSASSIN WOULDN'T HAVE CHAMBERS HERE!!!

DARRES, I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THIS WEIRD OBSESSION YOU'VE HAD FOR THE PRINCESS, BUT IT'S GETTING A BIT RIDICULOUS. MAYBE YOU SHOULD ASK KELD FOR A VACATION. I HEAR THE ISLANDS ARE NICE--
I'M NOT CHASING THE PRINCESS, YOU IMBECILE, I'M CHASING AN ASSASSIN!!! NOW HELP ME FIND IT BEFORE I GET REALLY CRANKY!

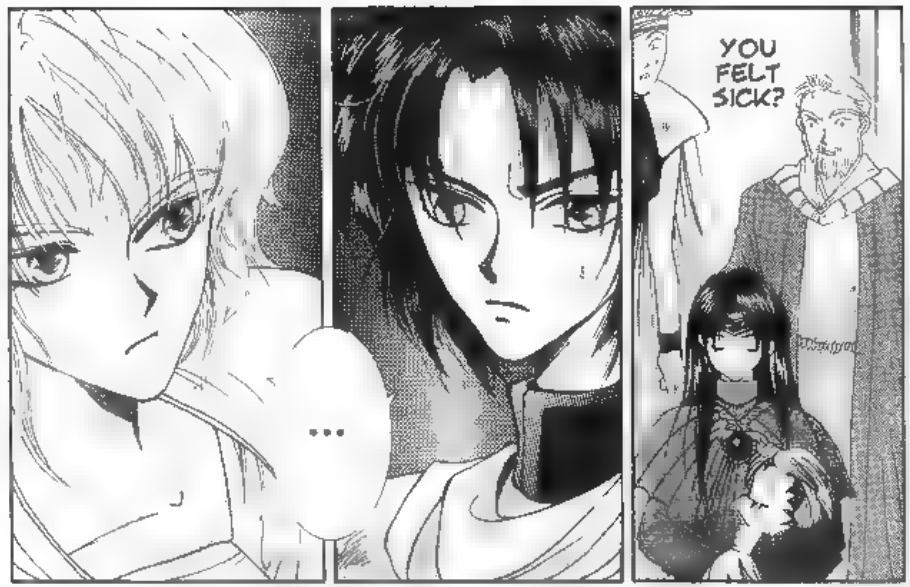
WAIT A SECOND, KID!!
KID?
WELL...
...IT'S NOT LIKE SHAPE-SHIFTERS GROW ON TREES AROUND HERE.
HUH?
HOW DID YOU KNOW?!

IF YOU'RE A SHAPE-SHIFTER, THEN YOU MUST BE UNDEAD, RIGHT?
ARE ALL KYAWLS UNDEAD?
I JUST DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO START TRYING IT OUT SO SOON.
SINCE YOUR MOTHER COULD CHANGE SHAPE, I FIGURED YOU COULD, TOO
-OKAY, SO THAT'S HOW I CAN SHAPE-SHIFT. BUT...
DOES SHE?
SOUP?
..THEY'D LIKELY COOK YOU INTO SOUP.
IF THEY FOUND OUT YOU WERE A SHAPE-SHIFTER...
MOST PEOPLE DON'T LIKE UNDEAD CREATURES. IF THEY KNEW THEY HAD ONE CRAWLING AROUND THEIR LIVING ROOM, THEY'D PROBABLY BE A LITTLE CREEPED OUT
YOU SHOULD RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL SHAPE.

WHAT WAS IT?
YES.
I'M NOT SURE.
LOWER-LEVEL UNDEAD ARE OFTEN EMPLOYED AS ASSASSINS.
BUT THIS ONE WAS DIFFERENT.
THE CASTLE'S LEGSARAM CHARMS HAD NO EFFECT ON IT.

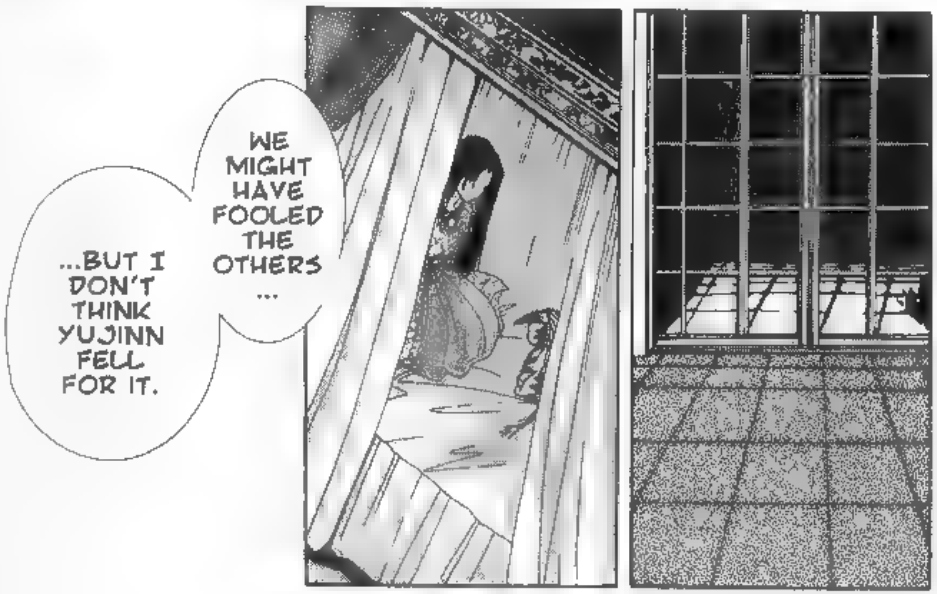
BUT, WHY...
DON'T WORRY.
I WON'T LET ANYONE COOK YOU.
LET ME GUESS... IT GOT AWAY?

SORRY ABOUT DASHING OUT LIKE THAT.
OUCH!
STOMP
SEE?
I FELT SICK ALL OF A SUDDEN.
?
?
UN-DEAD? HERE?
YOUR HIGH-NESS!!


...
YOU FELT SICK?

LET'S GET BACK TO WORK...
...YUJINN.

OF COURSE, YOUR HIGH-NESS.


...BUT I DON'T THINK YUJINN FELL FOR IT.
WE MIGHT HAVE FOOLED THE OTHERS ...

?!
DOES SHE KNOW WHAT SHE'S DOING?
ARE YOU LISTENING?!
UH, SURE...

I KNOW! WE'LL SET SOMEONE UP! THEY'RE ALREADY LOOKING FOR AN ASSASSIN, RIGHT?
WE'LL HAVE TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING.
HMMM...
WE'LL CREATE SOME SUSPECTS!
DUZELL, HELP ME REMOVE ALL THE ORNAMENTS WITH THIS SYMBOL FROM THE ROOM!

I HAVE NO PARENTS, BROTHERS, SISTERS... NOBODY.
WHAT LITTLE FAMILY I DO HAVE IS EITHER TRYING TO KILL ME, OR PUT A RING ON MY FINGER JUST TO GET THEIR CLAWS ON THE THRONE.
TO MY SUBJECTS, I'M A WAY TO MAINTAIN PHELIOS' BLOODLINE. NOTHING MORE.
IN OTHER WORDS, I DON'T REALLY GIVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT ANYONE ELSE BESIDES MYSELF, AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN.
.....!!

ALL RIGHT, I'M LISTENING.
YOU COULD GET IN TROUBLE.
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO COVER FOR ME?
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
YOU CARE ABOUT ME?
BECAUSE I CAN'T STAND THE TASTE OF UNDEAD STEW.
AND I CARE ABOUT YOU.

SO, I PROMISED MYSELF THAT IF I EVER FOUND SOMETHING I TRULY CARED ABOUT...
...I'D TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF IT.
I CARE ABOUT YOU.
まゆっ
DEAR, DEAR DUZE.
.....
UNDER-STAND

BUT ONE REQUEST. IF YOU CAN ONLY SHAPE-SHIFT INTO A BOY, PLEASE DON'T USE MY FACE.
YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH THAT WEIRDS ME OUT.
.....
...BUT IT LOOKED JUST LIKE HER
IT SOUNDED LIKE AN IMPOSTER IT EVEN SMELLED LIKE AN IMPOSTER ...
SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT.
イラ
イラ
イラ

REALLY? A "QUESTIONABLE LOVE AFFAIR?"
...
...IT IS A LITTLE ODD.
AND I HEARD THAT YUJINN HAD TO LEAVE HIS LAST POST AFTER A "QUESTIONABLE LOVE AFFAIR."
HE HAD TO BEG SIR KELD FOR HIS JOB HERE. AT LEAST THAT'S THE RUMOR.
DARRES!
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE. IT'S TOO CLICHE.
HEE HEE HEE...

I'M GOING TO SEE YUJINN.
THIS IS JUST GETTING US NOWHERE.
JILL, KRAI
CAN YOU TAKE OVER FOR AWHILE?
"I FELT SICK ALL OF A SUDDEN."
HEY, DO YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE THAT THE CAPTAIN DOESN'T HAVE ANY GIRL-FRIENDS?
I THOUGHT THEY DIDN'T LIKE EACH OTHER.
WEIRD. SINCE WHEN ARE CAPTAIN AND YUJINN BUDDIES?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...

GROOAARR!!
JILL!
THOSE HALFWIT GUARDS ARE GOING TO BE SLAUGHTERED
I HOPE I CAN FIGHT THEM.
WHERE'S DARRES ?!
THE CAPTAIN WENT TO SEE YUJINN!

L-L-L-L..
LADY ISHTAR!!
WE'LL CREATE SOME SUSPECTS!
WE'LL CREATE SOME CORPSES IS MORE LIKE IT.

ISHTAR, YOU IDIOT! YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR THAT THING!!
Stab
ISHTAR!

HEH
HEH
.....

WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?!
CAPTAIN!!
DARRES!
YOU'RE IMPERIAL GUARDS! START ACTING LIKE IT!!!
HIDING BEHIND A GIRL!

THESE ARE SUICIDE TROOPS
PROBABLY SENT AGES AGO. UP TILL NOW, THE CASTLE'S LEGSARAM CHARMS KEPT THEM OUT
NO? WHY NOT?
SOMEONE OR SOMETHING MUST HAVE CREATED AN OPENING IN OUR MAGICAL DEFENSES, AND THEY CAME CHARGING IN.
THESE MINDLESS CORPSES AREN'T CLEVER ENOUGH TO KILL BY STEALTH. THEY CAN'T CHANGE SHAPE, EITHER

THAT WAS PATHETIC!
NOT BAD...
YOU TWO ARE LESS THAN WORTHLESS! LOWER THAN SCUM! HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELVES GUARDS?
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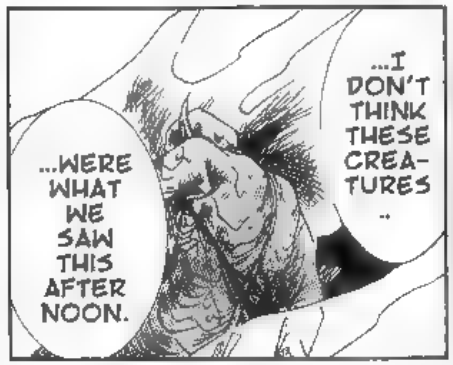

...I DON'T THINK THESE CREATURES ..
...WERE WHAT WE SAW THIS AFTER NOON.

AND I DON'T THINK THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR LAST NIGHT'S POISONING.

YOU KNOW, DARRES ...

EITHER WAY, HER HIGH-NESS MUST BE TIRED.
HAVE ANOTHER ROOM PREPARED FOR HER AND ESCORT HER THERE.

WHAT ?!
OH, DUZIE, ISN'T THAT THE WEIRDEST THING YOU'VE EVER HEARD OF?
LOOK, THE LEGSARMS FROM THIS ROOM WERE THROWN OUT INTO THE GARDEN.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE IMPOSTER MIGHT ALSO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS ATTACK?
I DON'T KNOW.

ボレ
SHE'S ONLY MADE THEM MORE SUSPICIOUS
SO, DUZIE ...
...ISN'T DARRES CUTE WHEN HE'S ANGRY?
WELL, HE'S AT LEAST BETTER THAN THOSE TWO OTHER NIMRODS.
HE'S THE BEST SWORDSMAN IN PHELIOSTA.
ジャラ

...HE'S ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE THAT YOU CARE ABOUT, RIGHT?
SO...

NOPE.

DARRES HAS BEEN MY GUARD SINCE HE WAS 17.
AND...
ALSO...
HE LOST HIS PARENTS WHEN HE WAS YOUNG, LIKE ME.
BUT WHEN THE LAST CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD SAW HOW GOOD DARRES WAS WITH A SWORD, SHE ADOPTED HIM.

!

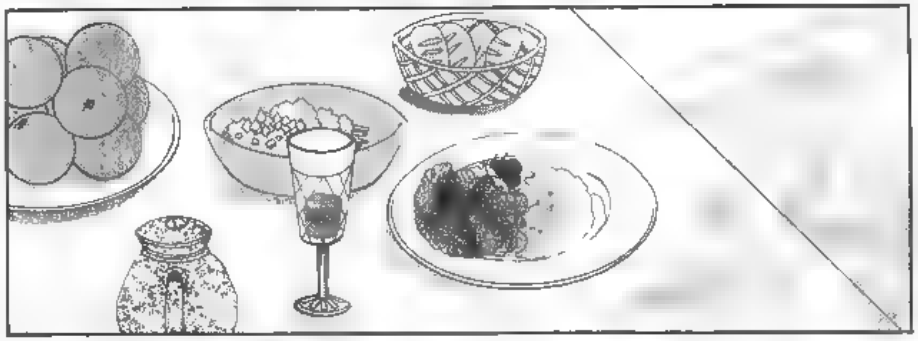
!!
THAT'S A SECRET, BUT I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU.
I DIDN'T ASK FOR YOUR TRUST.
I ACCEPT.
BUT STILL YOU'VE GIVEN IT TO ME.

HE'S WHAT I CARE ABOUT MORE THAN ANY-THING.
FOR DARRES...
...I'D EVEN CAST "LA GAMME."

ISHTAR...
...MY REAL NAME IS...
...DUZELL.
NO!
DUZZY-WUZZY, MY WIDDLE SHAPE-SHIFTIN' KITTEN--
YUP!

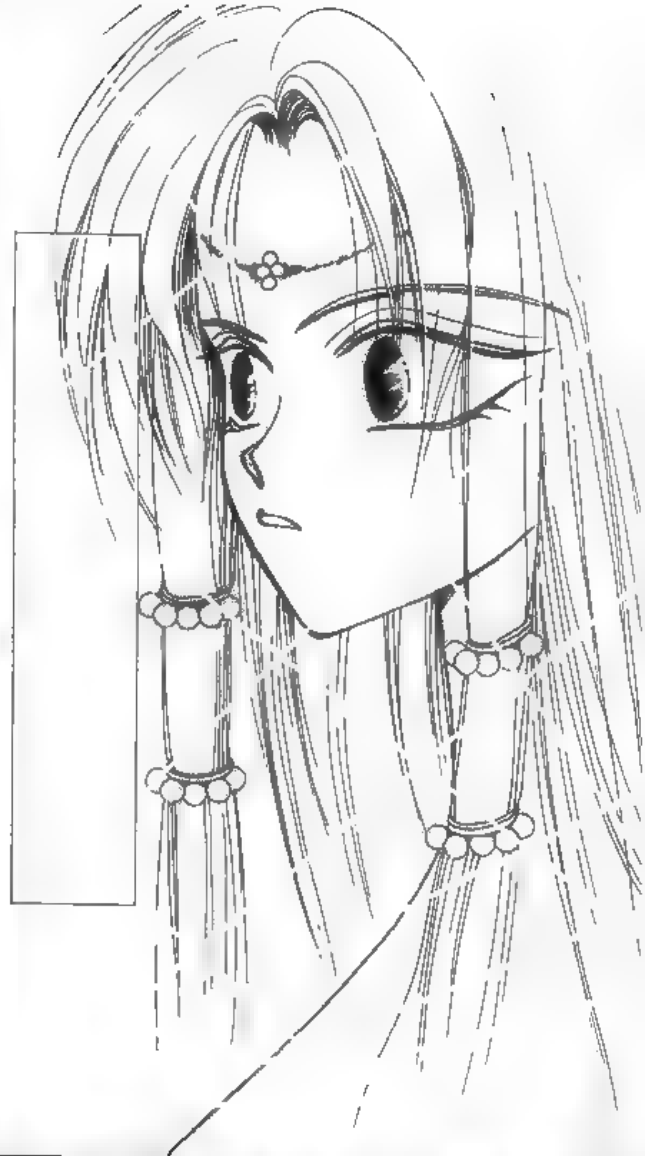
WHAT AM I DOING?
"I DON'T REALLY GIVE A RAT'S ASS ABOUT ANYONE ELSE BESIDES MYSELF, AND THAT'S PRETTY MUCH HOW IT'S ALWAYS BEEN"
DON'T WORRY. LEAVE THE REST TO ME.
"SO, I PROMISED MYSELF THAT IF I EVER FOUND SOMETHING I TRULY CARED ABOUT..."
"...I'D TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF IT."

I AM THE VAMPIRE KING, DUZELL.
"I CARE ABOUT YOU..!!
I'M UNDEAD. LIKE THOSE CREATURES THAT JUST TRIED TO KILL YOU.
IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE, I FOUGHT KING PHELIOS.



KELD ...
...THAT INVITATION FROM AUNT RAMIA IN LA NAAN...
...I'LL BE ACCEPTING IT.

SO LADY ISHTAR, DO YOU CARE AS MUCH FOR ME NOW?



THIS IS MAD-NESS!!
I SAID I'M GOING!!
BESIDES, I'LL BE SAFER THERE UNTIL YOU GUYS FIND THIS ASSASSIN.
...
AND LA NAAN IS HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL MARTIAL ARTS CONTEST

YOUR HIGH-NESS!
IS THAT WISE?
THERE HAVE ALREADY BEEN SEVERAL ATTEMPTS ON YOUR LIFE!!

I HAVE AN AUNT AND THREE COUSINS IN LA NAAN.
IF ONE OF THEM IS PHELIOS, GO AHEAD AND KILL 'EM.

WHAT?!

LA
LA
WE'RE GOING TO LA NAAN!
WE'RE GOING TO KILL PHELIOS !!
.....
WHAT ON EARTH
.....
OKAY, APPARENTLY THE PRINCESS HAS LOST HER MIND
JUST MY KIND OF GAL.
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 2

I TOLD AUNTIE I'D BE BRINGING THE BEST SWORDSMAN IN PHELIOSTA.
RIGHT, DARRES?
I SURE AS HELL CAN!
IF I TELL YOU TO FIGHT, YOU'LL FIGHT. GOT IT?
WHAT?! YOU CAN'T DO THAT!!
.....

A VAMPIRE'S DILEMMA

OR

LOVE SUCKS WHEN YOU'RE DEAD

ONE TASTE OF LOVE...
ONE TASTE OF YOUR SWEET EMBRACE ...
RISHAS, PREPARE FOR BATTLE! WE GO TO WAR WITH THE HUMANS!
WHAT ?!!
MY LORD, THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING.

WHY RISK OUR OWN LIVES IN A FOOLISH WAR WITH THE HUMANS? WHY NOW?
WE DESTROY THE HUMANS AND WE DESTROY OUR-SELVES.
WE NEED HUMAN BLOOD. IT'S THE SOURCE OF OUR LIFE AND MAGIC.
WHY?

YOU ARE ALL SHELLS I'VE POURED MYSELF INTO.
I CAN'T RESPECT YOU. CAN'T LOVE YOU
YOU SHOULD HOPE SO, AT LEAST.
NO DOUBT THAT SOME OF YOU ARE PROBABLY POWERFUL ENOUGH TO CONTINUE ON WITHOUT ME.
BUT WOULD YOUR LIFE BE ANY LESS EMPTY THAN MINE?
YOU'RE MERE SHADOWS OF ME WITH MY DEATH YOU WILL ALL TURN TO DUST
...

I'M BORED TO DEATH, RISHAS
I'VE GROWN TIRED OF OUR WRETCHED EXISTENCE.
I HAVE NO COMPANIONS OTHER THAN PUPPETS. MARIONETTES MADE OF DUST.
PUPPETS CANNOT LOVE

BUT PUPPETS CAN'T LOVE.
RISHAS...
DO YOU THINK HUMANS REALLY CAN...?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY ?
NEVER MIND.

WE SHALL DO AS YOU COMMAND, YOUR MAJESTY.
THANK YOU, RISHAS.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY FAVORITE PUPPET.

HI! NICE TO MEET YOU!

I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU NEW READERS AND MY OLD FANS.

MY NAME IS JUDAL, AND "VAMPIRE GAME" IS MY SIXTH MANGA.

GRRR

GRRR

ARGH

...WHO IS TRYING TO KILL THE REINCARNATION OF HIS OLD ENEMY.

IT'S BASICALLY ABOUT A REINCARNATED VAMPIRE KING...

BUT THERE ARE OBSTACLES TO OVERCOME, LIKE ISHTAR TRYING TO HELP.

THAT'S THE BASIC STORY.

WHAT?

THAT'S NOT TRUE!

AFTERWARD

THE PROBLEM WITH PUPPETS IS THAT THEY'RE HOLLOW. WITHOUT YOU, THEY HAVE NO DEPTH.

THE PUPPET SHOW IS OVER...

I WILL HAVE MY FILL OF LOVE AS SOON AS I FIND SOMEONE WORTHY.

SOMEONE...TASTY.

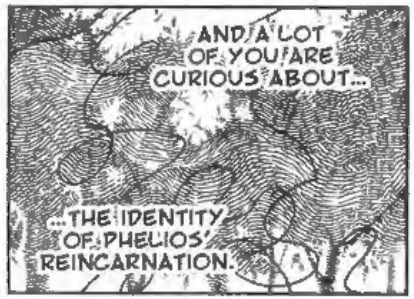
FIN

VAMPIRE GAME

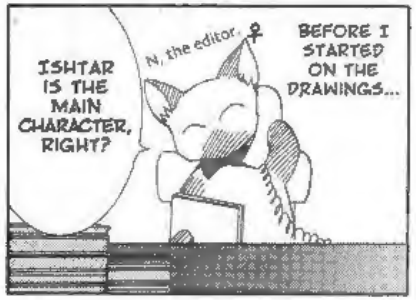
Next issue...

So Ishtar is off to visit her aunt in La Naan, ostensibly to see a warriors' competition in which her three strong cousins and her guardian, Darres, will be participating. But her motives are far more mischievous in nature. If Duzell is to find the reincarnation of King Phelios, he needs to taste his blood, and what better way to lap up the juice of life than from the floor of a warriors' competition... especially when matrimony is the prize.

YOUR COMMENTS



ABOUT THE MAIN CHARACTER



WELL, IT WAS ABOUT DUZELL.
ISHTAR HAS MARKET VALUE. SHE'S HOT. THINK OF THE CONVENTIONS....
...IT'S STILL A MYSTERY.
I THINK I'LL GRAB A SANDWICH.

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VAMPIRE GAME™

Long ago, in an epic battle of might, King Phelios defeated the Vampire King Duzell. And as both laid dying on the field, Duzell swore that his reincarnation would find King Phelios' reincarnation and exact his revenge. A hundred years later, the moment of reincarnation has arrived... the only problem is that Duzell has been reincarnated as a harmless house cat. And to add to his frustration, he can't find the reincarnation of King Phelios. Luckily, he has been adopted by Phelios' grand-daughter, the teenage princess Ishtar, through whom Duzell may be able to track down who in the Phelios tribe is host to the great king's reincarnated soul.

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